

GOVERNOR SIGNS SB 953

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Governor Schwarzenegger signed our SB 953 Good Samaritan bill, authored by Senator Mimi Walters, into law July 15. It will take effect with all the new laws January 1.

This bill cleared both the Senate and Assembly without a single NO vote on either floor or in any committee. This reflects the hard work of BPM's Board Members, Senator Walters and CPMA's Barry Broad, who worked *like **Champions*** to move this bill to Victory.

It also reflects respect and high regard for DPMs from law and public policy makers. For example, at the Department's training session for members of all health boards last month, our first-in-the-nation Continuing Competence program was highlighted as a Best Practice for others to follow without more delay. DCA Director Brian Stiger noted BPM's program has resulted in a 50% decline in consumer complaints since inception 10 years ago. Given the epidemic of medical error plaguing this country, that stands out to many. Yet BPM is still the only doctor-licensing board in the nation to implement this long recommended reform.



SB 953, by deleting B&P Code Section 2397(d), removes a barrier enacted 30-years ago to DPMs providing Good Samaritan emergency care beyond your regular foot and ankle scope in Section 2472 (previously 2473).

The section being struck--2397(d)--said, "Nothing in this article shall be construed to authorize practice by a podiatrist beyond that set forth in Section 2473."

SB 953 will not alter the normal scope of practice in Section 2472. It will provide DPMs can assist during any emergency, as specified in Article 17 (Sections 2395-2398, which provide exemptions from liability), without regard to Section 2472. Without any worry, concern, second thought or question. Statutes of 2010. Chapter 105.

Following our July 26 BPM meeting, Board Members James J. Longobardi, DPM and Raymond K. Cheng, AIA gave a celebratory thumbs up. President Karen L. Wrubel, DPM, Kristina M. Dixon, MBA, Neil B. Mansdorf, DPM, I and my friend and colleague Elizabeth Ware joined in smiles. Working together, we've done it again. Dr. Mansdorf played a key role.

High Standards  Continuing Competence  Reducing medical error  Preventing patient harm

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